

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, and 12-19 remain pending in the application. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and claim 19 has been added for consideration. No new matter is introduced by the claim addition.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reason (PCT Publication No. WO00/14322), claims 1, 8, 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by No et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0074932, hereinafter "No"), and claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reason. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art references by further reciting an inner lift part, provided within the outer lift part, wherein the inner lift part is configured to be able to protrude toward an inner space of the rotating drum through the open top of the outer lift part and to be contained within the outer lift part, during a rotation of the rotating drum. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Figs. 3-7, and paragraph [0034] of Applicants' application.

A lift of a drum-type washing machine of the present embodiment, as recited in

amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, an outer lift part fixed to an inner circumferential surface of a rotating drum, the outer lift part having an open top, and an inner lift part, provided within the outer lift part, wherein the inner lift part is configured to be able to protrude toward an inner space of the rotating drum through the open top of the outer lift part and to be contained within the outer lift part, during a rotation of the rotating drum.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references relied upon in the rejections under 35U.S.C. 102(b), 102(e) and 103(a), considered singly or in any proper combination, do not disclose such a combination of features.

In particular, Reason fails to disclose an outer lift part fixed to an inner part circumferential surface of a rotating drum recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Rather, in the Reason reference, closure means 28 form a part of a drum and is slidably mounted on the drum in order to open and close an access aperture 26.

Further, Reason also fails to disclose an inner lift part as recited in claims 1 and 10. In the Reason reference, the walls of inner curve side wall 20 shown in Fig. 5 is not provided within the outer lift part and cannot protrude toward an inner space of the drum, or cannot be contained within the outer lift part during a rotation of the drum. No also does not disclose the above-noted combination of presently claimed features.

Newly added independent claim 19 includes, inter alia, a cylindrical rotatable drum, a first lift part mounted on an inner surface of the drum and located within the drum, and a second lift part coupled with the first lift part and slidably movable upward and downward along a radial direction of the drum during a rotation of the drum.

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Neither Reason nor No disclose such a combination of features. The walls of the inner curved side 20 of Reason cannot move slidably upward and downward along a radial direction of the drum during a rotation of the drum, and No fails to disclose the second lift part as recited in claim 19.

Thus, neither Reason nor No anticipates the presently claimed embodiment or render the presently claimed invention unpatentable.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 are now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks, and claims 2-9, and 12-18 dependent thereon are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the allowable base claims and also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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